

REMARKS

This response is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed June 3, 2004, to request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 22 as set forth therein. In the event the Examiner determines that the foregoing amendments do not place the case in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered to place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

However, in the Official Action, the Examiner withdraws the previous grounds for rejection of claims 1 and 22 in favor of new grounds, which cite a newly applied reference. Specifically, the Examiner now rejects claims 1 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,188,504 to Murakami et al. (hereinafter "Murakami").

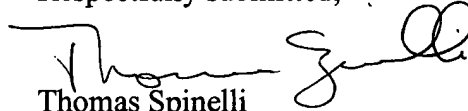
In response, claims 1 and 22 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Furthermore, allowable claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 3 patentably distinguish over the cited references and are allowable.

The above amendments and remarks establish the patentable nature of all the claims currently in this case. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance and passage to issue of these claims are therefore respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone

conference with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case,
the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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